

I CLAIM:

- 1) A court standard for positioning a net above a gymnasium floor comprising:

an embedded upright floor tube having a top end portion which is nominally in alignment with the gymnasium floor;

a contained tube closely and slidably positioned within the floor tube; and,

a releasable lock means to maintain the contained tube at a selected height above the floor.
- 2) A court standard as in claim 1 wherein the releasable lock means comprises a split ring adapted to engage to maintain the net at one of multiple heights, said height selected for a game being played.
- 3) A court standard as in claim 1 wherein there are a plurality of contained tubes, each contained tube closely and slidably positioned within a tube therebelow.
- 4) A court standard as in claim 3 further comprising a shock absorbing pad positioned within a bottom portion of the floor tube to cushion the contained tube upon retraction, and a floor cover having a movable and attached plate.

5) A court standard as in claim 4 wherein a top portion of the floor tube and each contained tube have an annular inner stop portion, and wherein a lower portion of each contained tube has an annular outer guide portion having a thickness comparable to the inner stop member, said outer guide portion coming into contact with a respective stop member when the contained tube is fully upwardly extended.

6) A court standard as in claim 5 further comprising a top and inner most cylindrical member having a lower end portion having an annular outer guide portion and an upper portion adapted for reception of the net.

7) A court standard as in claim 1 further comprising a winch which is releasably attachable to a contained tube and wherein the top and inner most cylindrical member further comprises a top pulley so that a net cable may be drawn over the pulley and tightened with the winch.

8) A court standard as in claim 3 further comprising a biased rocker latch configured so that when the contained tube is fully elevated the latch will engage.

9) A court standard as in claim 8 wherein there are two opposite rocker latches so that the latches may be squeezed together for release, and wherein each rocker latch pivots on a pin in an upwardly elongate hole so that the weight carried

10) A court standard as in claim 3 wherein the inner members further comprise a peripheral seal to trap air within the inner tubes to result in an air cushioned retraction of the court standard.

11) A method of erecting a court standard and supported net above a gymnasium floor comprising the following steps:

providing a court standard having i) an embedded upright floor tube having a top end portion which is nominally in alignment with the gymnasium floor, ii) a contained tube closely and slidably positioned within the floor tube; and, iii) releasable lock means to maintain the contained tube at a selected height above the floor;

elevating the contained tube to a desired height;

releasably locking the contained tube at the selected height above the floor;

and,

attaching the net to the court standard;

thereby avoiding the task of carrying the court standard from storage.

12) A method as in claim 11 wherein the court standard further comprises a lockable split ring adapted to engage around the top and inner most cylindrical member to maintain the net at one of multiple heights, said height selected for a game being played and wherein the method further comprises the step of locking the

split ring at a mark on the cylindrical member to maintain the net at a selected height.

13) A method as in claim 12 wherein the court standard comprises a plurality of contained tubes, each contained tube closely and slidably positioned within a tube therebelow.

14) A method as in claim 13 further comprising the step of lifting an attached floor cover to access the retracted court standard.

15) A method as in claim 14 wherein a top portion of the floor tube in the court standard and each contained tube therein has an annular inner stop portion and wherein a lower portion of each contained tube has an annular outer guide portion having a thickness comparable to the inner stop member, said outer guide portion coming into contact with a respective stop member when the contained tube is fully extended.

16) A method as in claim 15 wherein the court standard further comprises a top and inner most cylindrical member having a lower end portion having an annular outer guide portion and an upper portion adapted for reception of the net.

17) A method as in claim 11 wherein the court stand further comprises a winch which is releasably attachable to a contained tube and wherein the top and inner most cylindrical member further comprises a top pulley so that a net cable may be drawn over the pulley and tightened with the winch and wherein the method further comprises the steps of attaching the winch to the court standard, stringing the net over the pulley, and tightening the net with the winch.

18) A method as in claim 13 wherein the court standard further comprises a biased rocker latch configured so that when the contained tube is fully elevated the latch will engage.

19) A method as in claim 18 wherein the court standard has two opposite rocker latches so that the latches may be squeezed together for release and wherein each rocker latch pivots on a pin in an elliptical hole so that the weight carried by the contained tube is partially carried by the rocker latch rather than entirely by the pin.

20) A method as in claim 13 wherein the contained in the court standard further comprise a peripheral seal to trap air within the inner tubes to result in an air cushioned retraction of the court standard.